

As Dulles Departs . . .

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WASHINGTON

President Kennedy and his officials have gone to great pains in dealing with CIA Director Allen Dulles' impending retirement to avert any implication that the withdrawal of Dulles' private life is the result of the failure of the Cuban invasion.

Kennedy and his top officials are keenly conscious of Dulles' impressive qualities as a man, his deep experience in intelligence affairs, and his long service to the government. The Cuban affair was a compound of many errors in many quarters and Dulles could not in justice depart Washington as the scapegoat.

He is, however, 68, and during his tenure as the first civilian director of the CIA, the agency has developed its original advisory role into a close involvement with the policy functions of foreign relations. Many feel that this development came as a consequence of the kinship of Allen and Foster Dulles and many feel that the CIA should be returned as quickly as possible to a purer role of intelligence collection.

Amid this sentiment, crystallized by the events in Cuba, there is a certain impatience on the part of the Administration to gain the full control of the CIA which can only be obtained by

replacement of the upper echelon. Dulles in departing is not to be accompanied by the deputy director, Gen. C. P. Cabell, and the chief of operations who was directly in charge of the Cuban landing, Richard Goodell. Changes are already under way in the agency and there are rumors when the new officials take hold.

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Assessments of the CIA vary, and there is no way to rate its performance. Many of those who have been with it over a long period believe that its operations and personnel are better now than they have ever been. There is little disposition to maintain that the agency, because of Cuba and the U-2 incident, has fallen upon dark days. There is a mixed feeling, however, that whatever its asset value, the CIA has become something of a public embarrassment to the United States in the wake of these incidents.

The CIA has maintained a shadowy existence and constant growth. Its appropriations have been handled by silent subcommittees of Congress who have been dogged in obscuring the size and scope of the expenditures. There have been occasional moves for a joint congressional committee to supervise intelligence activities but these have been stoutly resisted by Dulles, whose warm and reassuring personality brought him far more popularity with the legislators than his brother ever enjoyed.